Principal’s Perspective

I am delighted and feel privileged to have been appointed Principal of Leonora District High School. I have very much appreciated the welcome by both the school and wider community. I will be working hard this year to ensure that students are given the opportunity to be the best they possibly can. Education is one of the most valuable life opportunities that can be given to a person and with regular attendance, some hard work and application the young people will set themselves up with a skill set that will allow for them to enjoy a happy, fulfilling and successful life. The young person will also be equipped to participate fully and make a valuable contribution to the community in which they will live.

On staffing matters I would like to welcome the school’s Deputy Principal Ms Hill who comes to the school with a wealth of experience in the goldfields region and has made a valuable contribution to assisting with a successful start to the school year. The school also has three new teachers and I extend a warm welcome to Mr Norrish, Mr Niroshan and Ms Lane. Fortunately the school is well served by continuing the support of Semester one and two you can expect to be kept informed by staff about your child’s progress and I would like to encourage all parents to make contact with the teachers. I am keen to ensure that the school establishes a strong relationship with the school community, based on an open dialogue with students, parents and teachers and through this warrant that students at this school receive an education that is meaningful and relevant. To that end I have activated a web based Parent Satisfaction Survey which gives parents an opportunity to provide feedback to the school on various school matters which will in turn assist in future planning. The survey can be accessed at http://apps.det.wa.edu.au/dest/ The survey ID is 66271. Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit the school and discuss any aspect of their child’s education. Involvement with the school’s Parent and Citizen Group is an excellent way to make a contribution to the school and active participation assists in strengthening the relationship between school and community. The next Parent and Citizen Meeting will be held in the school staff room at 6:30pm on Tuesday April 9. I personally am looking forward to meeting parents and welcome any parent to the school who wishes to discuss their child’s educational program with me.

I have been pleased with the way in which the school has settled down and have observed the pride and respect that the student’s have for their school. I will make every effort to ensure this continues with the provision of quality teaching and learning programmes and the continued maintenance and upgrading of school facilities and grounds. I would like to encourage all parents to ensure that student dress standards are maintained and that students come to school dressed in full school uniform and that student’s feet are protected by wearing closed in shoes. The school considers the provision of a safe and happy school environment of paramount importance.

The On - Entry Testing Programme for Pre Primary, Yr one and two students was conducted between weeks three and five. (Monday Feb 18 – Friday March 8th) The main purpose of the program was to provide teachers with an opportunity, early in the year, to collect information on the essential numeracy and literacy skills and understandings of each child in their class. This will assist your child’s teacher to develop informed and intentional teaching for play based programs, designed to foster each child’s learning based on individual needs. Thank you to Mrs Reddingius and Miss Calcott for their efforts.

The school also welcomes Clare Bradshaw and Jamie Pul who have been capably conducting the school’s in - term swimming lessons. I have been impressed with the participation level of students in this program and will look to continue with the program next year. Mr Reddingius has also been conducting swimming training for students in preparation for both the school and interschool carnivals which will be run on Thursday April 4 (school carnival) and Thursday April 11 (inter school carnival). Again the level of participation has been encouraging.

Finally, I am working with a local food provider to develop a menu that students can order from that will make sure that lunches are healthy and have some nutritional value. More information regarding this initiative will be disseminated as the menu is developed. – Ian Masarei
Leonora District High School has welcomed several new staff members this year. Firstly, we have a new Principal, Mr Ian Masarei and a new Deputy Principal, Ms Helen Hill. We also welcome Emma Farrell as our new School Officer.

Our new teaching staff include Mr Arulandandam Niroshan, who is teaching Middle School Science, Maths and Phys Ed, Miss Katrina Lane who is our Home Economics, Science and History Teacher and Mr Michael Norrish. Mrs Samantha Honey has also joined our team of Education Assistants.

All our new staff look forward to getting to know the students, parents and caregivers.

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**Merit Certificates**

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Certificates at our last Assembly:

- **Joshua Smith** – For better participation and a huge improvement in his attitude
  - For his ‘What if...?’ picture of Gwalia
- **Shianne Redmond** – For her enthusiasm, concentration and improvement in class work
- **Alystina Beaman** – For her big efforts and good progress in reading
- **Georgianna Whitby** – For her great smile and wonderful attitude
  - **Ladda Kaewhann** – For her caring nature
- **Dilyn Whitby** – For always trying and being helpful
- **Maddy-Rae Taylor** – For slowing down and completing work carefully
- **Tyler Nairn** – For putting in 110% effort in Maths
- **Vaughan Harris** – For an excellent work ethic and having a real desire to learn
- **Reece Nairn** – For an excellent effort and completing work to the highest standard
  - **Leigth Lewis** – For trying his best in all tasks
- **Sonnita Ashwin** – For following instructions and always listening
  - **Form B** – For being proactive in their cooking lessons
- **Eunice Calyun** – For her hard work and dedication in her cooking
The Kindergarten children have just begun their very first school year. We have had lots of fun playing and working together and joining in with our many getting-to-know-you activities. Judging by all the beautiful smiles, everyone seems to be enjoying their first wonderful experiences of being a Kindy student.

Leisa Rothnie

As part of our busy start to the year, the Pre Primary students have all participated in the compulsory On Entry Assessment Program. This involves about an hour’s worth of small tasks presented individually or in small groups that enable us to collect information about each child’s literacy and numeracy skills. This testing is now completed and performance summaries will be given to families.

This data is invaluable in providing the school with some base line data on which to base our education program and show progress over time. This assessment program is continued in year 1 and 2 before NAPLAN testing takes over in yr 3. Our yr 1 students have also completed the testing and year 2 testing is under way.

Thank you to all our students for being so helpful to the teachers in getting this testing completed.

Rosemary Reddingius
Students at Leonora District High School dived into first term with swimming lessons commencing in week two. All year levels participated in the swimming program and had a great time with their swimming teachers, Clare, Jamie and Tayla.

Swimming Training for both our Faction Carnival and the Interschool Carnival has begun. So far we have had 6 training sessions averaging about 30 students each time.

Swimming training is for students who can already swim quite well and can complete a lap of the pool. Thank you especially to the older girls, Shania Whitby, Alicia Noble, Britney Jones and Helen Peterson, who have set a strong example for our younger students.

Rene Reddingius, Tim Dutton, Tayla Norrie, Arul Niroshan
The food van requests that lunch orders be made first thing in the morning. Orders will be picked up by the school from the van and will be available to students at lunch time at the front office. Students will not be served by the food van in their lunch break. The school P & C supports the school in its efforts to ensure that students have a healthy diet.

On Friday the 8th of March the Bush Rangers held a Community BBQ and School Clean Up. Parents and caregivers were invited to join us for a sausage sizzle lunch cooked by our hard working Bush Rangers, participate in a school clean up and then join their child in the classroom after. Our students did a wonderful job cleaning up our school grounds and enjoyed a well deserved treat for their hard work. Thank you to our Bush Ranger students and to Fifi and Tim for organising this event. It’s great to see students taking pride in their school grounds. Let’s all keep doing our bit to keep our school and our wider community clean.

In line with the WA Department of Education’s healthy eating policy Leonora District High School encourages all parents to ensure that the school lunches are nutritionally balanced. In support of this policy the local food van has developed a healthy lunch menu that parents and students can order from.
It’s not ok … because school enables children to build on their knowledge and skills each year.

It’s not ok … because children can miss out on the basic skills and may experience difficulties later with their learning.

It’s not ok … because school helps children build confidence in areas such as communication, teamwork, organisation, and social skills.

It’s not ok … because going to school is a legal requirement and there may be fines applied for non attendance.

The law says that all children must attend school up until the end of the year that they turn seventeen years of age. Under the law, parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school on all school days. Parents must not keep their child away from school for minor reasons.

It’s not ok … to be soft on attendance because we want all students to have the best opportunity to be successful at school.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Under Western Australian law (School Education act 1999), parents must send their children to school unless:

- They are too unwell;
- They have an infectious disease;
- the principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason.

Parents must let the school know via written note within three days why their child has not attended school.

Under the law, schools must:
- monitor attendance of students;
- follow up with parents and caregivers on student absences.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR CHILD MISSES SCHOOL WITHOUT A VALID REASON?

The following steps will be taken until the issue is resolved:
- the school will ask the parent for an explanation;
- the school will meet with the parent to discuss ongoing issues and plan a response;
- In the event of attendance issues remaining unresolved the case may be referred to the local district education office;
- A school attendance panel may be set up to review the steps taken and provide advice;
- In some cases parents may be fined.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What should I do if my child is unwell?
A: Inform the school by phone and provide a written note explaining the situation to the student’s teacher upon return to school.

Q: What should I do if my child refuses to go to school?
A: Contact the school as soon as possible and the school will arrange support and advice.

Q: What should I do if we are on holiday during school time?
A: Holidays should be arranged in the designated school holiday periods.

Q: Can I take my child out of school for social occasions?
A: Social occasions should be organised out of school hours.

Q: Will my child be marked absent from school if he/she is doing a TAFE, VET, or community based programme?
A: No, as long as this is part of the school programme. Attendance at these programmes is also monitored by the school.

Please direct any queries regarding attendance to:

Ian Masarei,
Principal.
I am interested in obtaining some base line data regarding how well parents think the school is serving their students. This survey is designed to determine the level of parent satisfaction associated with a range of policy and operational issues that govern the way in which the school runs. I am seeking your assistance in completing the survey so that this information can provide some direction for the school in future planning. The school considers regular review and improvement essential if it is to continue to meet your child’s education needs. The survey can be accessed on line by visiting http://apps.det.wa.edu.au/dest/ and entering the survey ID 66271. A hard copy of the survey will also be sent home for parents to complete and return to the school. The survey should take no longer than fifteen minutes to complete. I look forward to your feedback.

Ian Masarei,
Principal.

P&C Meeting
Leonora District High School
P&C Meeting will be held at 6:30pm Tuesday April 9th in the school staff room
All members of the Leonora community are welcomed and encouraged to attend

School Council
An AGM will be held at 5:30pm Tuesday April 9 in the school staff room to convene the Leonora District High School School Council
All members of the Leonora community are welcomed and encouraged to attend

The functions of the School council are to take part in:
Establishing and reviewing from time to time, the school’s objectives, priorities and general policy directions;
The planning of financial arrangements necessary to fund those objectives, priorities and directions;
Evaluating the school’s performance in achieving them;
Formulating codes of conduct for students at the school.

Happy Easter
The school will be closed on Friday the 29th of March until Tuesday the 2nd of April. Enjoy your extra long weekend and we look forward to seeing you back safely on Wednesday the 3rd of April.