Once a school farewells its Year 12 students, time just seems to go at double pace, especially when the retailers seem to engage in a race to see who can get their Christmas decorations up first!

Our 140 Year 12s were farewelled at a whole-school assembly last week. Our Class of 2013 is notable for their cohesion, their good humour, their caring for each other, their learning from each other, and their willingness to be a force of both conscience and good will.

These young people were thanked for their contributions to our school – in sport, drama and dance productions, competitions, representing us on camps, excursions, for accepting the challenges afforded them by their teachers, for being role models for younger students and in general for all of their achievements.

I asked each Year 12 student to think about their teachers and to identify with at least someone who has encouraged them, believed in them, disciplined them when they needed it or just put that little bit of extra effort into them. I noted that it is generally only with time that students can fully appreciate the value of a good teacher. I assured everyone gathered for this assembly that Lesmurdie SHS is fortunate to have some of the very best who work solidly as a team to provide our students with every possible opportunity.

We also acknowledged the other significant group of people who have students - their families and friends. I have worked in a dozen schools during my career and can tell you that there is something special about Lesmurdie SHS parents. There is a level of trust that the school has developed over many years which helps to make Lesmurdie unique among public schools in WA. I personally thanked all Year 12 parents for doing a superb job in producing such a great group of young people and for being so positive and supportive towards the school.

I extended special thanks to the Year 12 leaders – Rachael Honey, Travis Ross, Alex Hegarty and Jordan Fraser for being excellent ambassadors and student councillors. Collectively they have made significant contributions to our school.

Those students sitting WACE exams were wished well and all students were reminded of our formal Year 12 Presentation Ceremony on Friday 6 December where subject awards, citizenship awards, scholarships and other special recognition awards are presented.

Many thanks, John Stone, Principal
Congratulations to September's Student of the Month Award Winners - A Significant Improvement in Effort

Congratulations to October's Student of the Month Award Winners - The Quiet Achievers.
The 2013 Year book will be distributed to students early in Term 1, 2014. If you have not yet ordered and paid for your copy, please contact Jan Dibello on 9291 1200 to do so.

Year Books will be given out in Registration to current Year 8-11 students. All Year 12 students will be able to collect them from the Front Office from Week 2 2014. Copies of the November and December Newsletter will also be available.

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Congratulations to all students who entered the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC). Lesmurdie Senior High School achieved outstanding results with three High Distinctions, six Distinctions and 18 Credits.

Year 10 High Distinctions
Kieran Stockley
Ethan Glossop

Year 9 High Distinction
Aaron Hutchison

Year 8 Distinctions
Austin Guthrie
Steven Stefanis
Blake Minkey
Nathan Byrom
Zac Ford
Thane Shuker

This year our students attended the annual “Physics Day” at Adventure World, run by the Science Teachers’ Association of WA (STAWA). The purpose of this excursion was to give our students an opportunity to apply their understanding of our Motion (Physics) topic to real world applications in engineering. It required students to make realistic estimates of displacement, height and velocity as they apply to the rides and then use these to perform relevant calculations. Several demonstrations of other Physics applications were also on display to challenge students’ thinking and inspire their interest in this topic. Despite some rain, the students managed to gain some engineering insights and fit in some theme park fun as well.
LEAP EXCURSION

Year 8 LEAP students had a trip to AQWA and Naturaliste Marine Discovery centre to investigate the work of marine biologists. Students completed an assignment based on marine ecology and classification at AQWA before moving to NMDC to hear a talk about conservation of fish stocks. They also undertook a dissection on some herring to remove the otoliths (ear bones). These are used by scientists to age fish and increase the statistical knowledge about local fish stocks.

CURTIN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to the Year 9 LEAP students who were awarded first place (best overall School) in the Engineering in Schools Project at Curtin University. Group award winners were Tiana Milutinovic and Winnie Soemargo for their scientific report into their ‘Grain Crusher’.

CHEMICAL INSTITUTE AWARDS

Congratulations to Austin Guthrie and Ethan Glossop who were awarded High Distinctions and an ‘Award of Excellence’ for being in the top 1% of students in WA in the Royal Australian Chemical Institute National History Quiz.
Seniors were invited to share a Musical Morning with the Year 12 Music Students at the Lesmurdie Community Library.

This was the farewell performance for our students and was much enjoyed by the visitors. After an hour of music ranging from piano, guitar, harmonica and vocals, staff, visitors and students enjoyed Morning Tea together.

The cocktail hour from 5-6pm was enhanced by the end of term concerts. All music students gathered to play and sing about ‘Angels on the Bedpost’ and ‘Devils in the Wind’. The louds and the softs crescendoed into the evening air. Parents applause and the “feel good about music” at Lesmurdie prevails.

Breen Christie, Music teacher

The Lesmurdie Senior High School Concert Band performed at the opening ceremony of District High School Country week at the WA Basketball Centre.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Director General of Education. The band played the National Anthem and marched on the sports captains of each school with their banner.

Lesmurdie Senior High School Classical Guitar Ensemble has received many accolades for their beauty of tone, tightness and balance. These students are very passionate about practising, rehearsing and presenting their best at every performance opportunity.

At the recent Hills High School Spectacular presented by Kalamunda Music Society, they received accolades for their superb performance of Wongalling, composed by QLD guitar ensemble director Paul Svoboda; The Beatles song Blackbird arranged for the ensemble by their School of Instrumental Music Classical guitar teacher Steve East, as is his popular rhumba, Rhumbalistic.
STAFF V STUDENTS

Students suffered an ‘absolute slaughter’ in the annual staff vs student volleyball match.

Outplayed from the first serve, the students went down in each of the three games. Phys Ed teacher Bec Thompson-Bowness summed up the quality of the students team, ‘They will never beat us’.

Best players for the staff:
- Leo Surjan
- Bec Thompson Bowness
- Dean Parton

TEACHERS CHALLENGE THEIR THINKING

As part of Lesmurdie Senior High School’s investment in quality teaching, Ms McDonald and Mrs Cubbage are presently completing ‘Conference Accreditation Training’ promoted by the Education Department.

Many teachers across the school are attending the Instructional Strategies Program. Society and Environment is moving strongly into an Instructional Strategy focus, particularly in the area of Cooperative Learning. Mark Reynolds is shown here supporting Ms McDonald to develop her conferencing skills through an observation of collaborative learning in a Year 10 S&E class taught by Mr Armitage. These extension students are benefitting by developing their skills so they are more self-directed, motivated and able to communicate with others to enhance their understanding.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Once again, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) conducted our Student Council elections. The AEC print ballot papers, supervise voting and count the votes in our preferential style election.

Our thanks to Nigel Bushby from the AEC for his help. Results will be announced shortly.
We have been working on our next Business Plan since the beginning of the school year. The IPS Review that was conducted late in June verified our achievement targets and indicated a small number of improvements that needed to appear in the subsequent plan.

In the 2014-2016 Business Plan our three Focus Areas will be:

**Focus Area One: Lesmurdie SHS students will be successful**
Overall objective to increase opportunities for our students to learn, to create and to grow.

**Focus Area Two: Lesmurdie SHS staff will excel at their jobs**
Overall objective to increase levels of job satisfaction and effectiveness by focusing on Performance Coaching and the Australian Standards for Teachers and Leaders.

**Focus Area Three: Lesmurdie SHS will be a relevant Learning Community that is innovative, responsive and accountable**
Overall objective to extend increased IPS decision-making authority to develop innovative strategies & programs that respond to the needs of students and our community.

My overall aim is to maximise input into drafting the achievement targets for this plan. Thus far small groups of staff have workshopped ideas, our School Board has deliberated on the plan and I would welcome any parental feedback via email.

*John Stone, Principal*

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**BUSHFIRE PLAN**

It is important that all parents and caregivers have confidence in the procedures our school will take in the event of a bushfire. Government and Emergency Services learned a lot from the Roleystone fires and have put in place a stay and defend policy to cover most bushfire emergencies.

In essence this means that once the order is issued by DFES, our school population will be evacuated from all classrooms to our designated Safe Location - our Gymnasium and Performing Arts Centre - whilst Fire Brigade personnel fight the fire.

As you may have seen, DFES and the Welshpool Fire Brigade have completed significant fuel load reductions around our perimeter and around the gymnasium. In addition, last week we practised an invacuation of the whole school to our Safe Location. We sent an SMS to parents at the start of this drill to allay any fears especially if students had sent text messages to parents.

In other circumstances, where there is sufficient lead in time, parents and caregivers will be informed that the school will be closed or buses will transfer our school population to a community Safe Location, for instance Ray Owen Sports Centre.

Have confidence that we take duty-of-care very seriously and regularly communicate with DFES.

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**PAYMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

This year we have found it to be very difficult to allocate enough money to all Learning Areas to operate their various teaching and learning programs due to the low collection rate of voluntary contributions. At the end of October the collection rate for Years 8-10 was 69.7% and 63.3% for senior school voluntary contributions. Whilst a good number of parents and caregivers tend to pay subject charges and purchase text books etc, the voluntary contributions money tops up the allocation to Learning Areas so that they can offer the richest possible courses and tasks and cover all costs.

We do understand the term “voluntary” but at the same time we try very hard to have all courses in our school well resourced. If parents and caregivers could see their way to increase their level of voluntary contributions for 2014, this would be greatly appreciated.

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**ACCOLADES FOR OUR STAFF**

Two of our team members recently achieved Level 3 Classroom Teacher status for 2014 having successfully completed an exhaustive state-wide selection process. Congratulations go to Aaron Crawford [Science] and Greg Taylor [H/PE]. Level 3 Classroom Teachers are exemplary teachers recognised and rewarded for their exceptional teaching practices. They play important roles in providing and supporting high quality teaching and leadership in schools.

Level 3 Classroom Teachers are highly skilled in:
- meeting the learning needs of their students
- developing and implementing student assessment and reporting strategies
- reflecting on and improving their teaching practices
- developing and delivering professional learning for colleagues
- providing leadership in their school communities.

Both Aaron and Greg are experienced, innovative teachers able to role model successful best practice for colleagues and to mentor new teachers. They are great assets to our school and are highly valued.
Late Term 3 Geography students from Lesmurdie Senior High School joined Darling Range Sports College and Kalamunda Senior High School students to conduct the fieldwork component of their course for the semester. To enhance their knowledge of the rock lobster industry in Western Australia, we attended the Naturaliste Marine Centre in Hillarys.

To begin the day our students were lucky enough to have a session with Graeme Boudains, Principal Management Officer from the Department of Fisheries. Graeme discussed management practices recently adopted by the industry to ensure its sustainability and longevity for future years.

The students also conducted laboratory sessions that explored actual research methods used to monitor the rock lobster industry in Western Australia.

The highlight of the excursion would have to be watching the students trying to hang onto live lobster while conducting their research.

Lesmurdie Senior High School Class of 2005 Graduate Kate Campbell has written a book about the life-threatening injuries she suffered when the boat she was on crashed into a pylon on the Swan River. She wasn’t expected to wake up from her coma, but she did - only to face an arduous recovery that would include bouts of depression, multiple surgeries, and physical rehabilitation. The book will be launched on Thursday 14 November.
FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Everyone loves to win – I know that I do! Losing isn’t quite so much fun. However, I reckon that losing can be more important than winning.

Recently, I was at a junior sport event when the players were deliberately not told the game score to ‘shield’ them from the disappointment of losing. This is a dangerous game we play.

Learning how to lose well, and the opportunity to grow in maturity that this presents, can make losing a fantastic outcome! If we shield ourselves from difficulties in life then we miss opportunities to develop personal resilience. This makes the next time we lose just as hard to take, or even harder, than the previous time.

We know that ‘life’ will throw us curve balls and sometimes we will get ‘struck out’. If we have allowed ourselves and those around us to face difficulties in the past and to grow from them, then we walk a path towards maturity. However, if we shy away from the possibility of disappointment and defeat, then we actually reduce our chances of winning and guarantee that, in the end, we will strike out.

Resilience - it’s something to think about.

Grant Collins, Chaplain

HELP TO UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILDREN

Parent-Teen Connection

We have all come through adolescence – do we remember? It has always been a challenging, sometimes frustrating period of life’s journey.

Thankfully, today’s parents are usually more inclined to listen. Living with teenagers can be confusing and even worrying, but also rewarding. This course reduces stress and teaches parents to communicate, negotiate and minimise conflict.

This workshop will discuss:
- Influences and role of adolescence
- Developing a helpful perspective on adolescence
- Communication-adolescents understand
- Handling conflict
- How to enhance discipline

$50 per person / $75 per couple

WEST LEEDERVILLE
25 Cambridge Street
Paperbark Hill
Saturday, 16 November
9:30am - 4:30pm
2013

If you are interested in attending, please call 9489 6322 or email: students@relationships.com.au

MOVEMBER

It’s that time of year when the fine male folk of our community proudly display their manhood (by way of moustache) with a common aim of raising funds for Mens Health.

Last year our team, The Lesmodie Mos, raised over $1500 for the cause and hopefully this year we can go one better.

If anyone is interested in supporting this great cause, go to Movember.com.au search for Lesmodie Mos and follow the links to donate.

Thanks for your support - and good health to you all.

Curtin University Psychology students with Trevor Coultas

FINAL YEAR CURTIN PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS SPENT THE DAY AT LESMURDIE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DISCUSSING INTEGRATION OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INTO MAIN STREAM SCHOOLING. SESSIONS SPENT WITH TEACHERS, EDUCATION ASSISTANTS AND STUDENT SERVICES STAFF GAVE THEM INSIGHT INTO ISSUES FACING THESE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS PUT IN PLACE AT LESMURDIE TO ENSURE THAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC OUTCOMES.

Final year Curtin Psychology Students spent the day at Lesmurdie Senior High School discussing integration of students with special needs into main stream schooling. Sessions spent with teachers, Education Assistants and Student Services staff gave them insight into issues facing these students and their families, and the strategies and programs put in place at Lesmurdie to ensure that our students have successful academic outcomes.
DANA GREENWOOD

Year 10 Student Dana Greenwood recently competed at the 2013 Pony Club Nationals held at Brigadoon State Equestrian Centre. Dana was selected to represent Western Australia in the Prince Philip Mounted Games Junior Team. WA competed against teams from other states.

Dana and the rest of her WA team were triumphant and now hold the title of Australian Pony Club Junior PPMG Champions.

Dana and her horse “Diva” will also be travelling to NSW in April 2014 to compete at the Australian Mounted Games Pairs Championships.

BROCK MCGREGOR

2013 has been a great year for Year 8 student Brock McGregor. In a challenging circuit of go-karting, Brock’s record stands at

* 2nd Place at State Championships in Esperance
* 2nd Place at King of the Hill Open in Wundowie
* 2nd Place overall in South Eastern Zone series
* 3rd Place overall in Western Cup series

He is currently competing in the “Dash for Cash” at Kalgoorlie.

LOUISE VICKERS

Year 9 student Louise Vickers recently competed in the Crystal Challenge in Melbourne and the WA Figure Skating State Championships where she placed 3rd in both events. As a result of her placing in the State Championships she has been selected to represent WA at the 2013 Australian Figure Skating Championships to be held in Melbourne in December.
Lesmurdie Senior High School is always happy to promote the successes of our students. Please contact Katharine Harrington on 9291 1245 or by email at katharine.harrington@education.wa.edu.au with information and photographs.

Last day for Year 11s: Friday 15 November
Last day of Term: Thursday 19 December

CARNIVAL TIME

A fantastic effort was made by our Interschool Athletics Team this year in the ‘C’ Division carnival. We had a small team of 68 and each team member represented the school with great spirit and dedication. A big thank you to those students who stepped up and participated in the events for our injured athletes: Laura Clark, Luke Gava, Lathan Vincent, Austin Guthrie, Rhiannon Tilbrook and Pearl Clarke. Dean Payne, Year 11 showed true spirit, racing to the finishing line overtaking many to come 2nd in the 800m Year 11 & Over. Harry Rumsley threw a personal best of 32m in discus, improving on his results by 6 metres and Jaygar Martin also gained a personal best to take out 1st place in the discus Year 9 & under. Jaygar displayed true sportmanship when a student from another school fell over in one of the events. He went back to pick up the student, dusted him off, and got him running again.

Other excellent results were from Jasmin Long in the 1500m with a time of 4m and 54sec. Cameron Faint received 1st place. Shania Tipu demonstrated an all-round ability taking out 1st place in the 800m, 400m and long jump to receive runner up Champion Girl Year 10. Another fantastic effort was by Kaylee Halse who participated in nearly all the events taking out three 3rd places and a 1st place to receive 2nd runner up Champion Girl for Year 9’s.

While the Senior School is now Year 11 and over, I would like to congratulate Kwakou Selormey and Jordan Fraser who finished runner up and 2nd runner up for Year 12 boys and Rhiannon Tilbrook for finishing 2nd runner up Champion Girl for Year 12. Finishing 6th by one point to John Forrest, with Mount Lawley overall winner is a great result. I would like to congratulate you all on a solid effort and for showing wonderful sportmanlike behaviour.

Bec Thompson-Bowness, HPE Teacher