Term 2 is already in full swing and the events of last term seem so long ago, however it would be remiss of me to not mention some of our highlights since the last Link newsletter.

The success of our parent/teacher interviews in the last week of Term 1 continues to be a highlight on our school calendar and showcases the dedicated efforts of staff and students in striving for improvement. I wish to thank all parents who were able to attend.

We held our ANZAC Commemorative Assembly in the Corral on the last day of Term 1 and our students served us proudly in running the service, participating in the catafalque party, laying wreaths and playing in the school band. Our invited guests were extremely impressed at the respect and exemplary conduct displayed by students. A big thank you to Ms Bretnall, Ms Harrington and Ms Goodhew for their committed efforts in organising this memorable event.

We finished Term 1 on an entertaining note by hosting a Fun Run fundraiser – the fourth in successive years. Again our students displayed exemplary participation and behaviour. It was an enjoyable end to the term and a wonderful representation of the positive student/teacher relationships that exist here at Lesmurdie SHS. Many thanks to the Physical Education staff in coordinating the event and our Head Boy, Mitchell Schofield, for generating the music.

During the break we held two separate excursions. Ms Nicoletto, Mr Bowden and Mr Coultas ventured across the Tasman to take some of our Year 11 ex-LEAP students on an Adventure Journey to New Zealand while Ms Dowsett and Ms White coordinated the QLD Rafting Trip down the mighty Tully River. A huge thank you to those staff involved and to our students, who again proved to be superb ambassadors for our school.

Our recent Staff Development Day provided an opportunity to continue our planning for Year 7 students in 2015. Engaging with Year 7 Australian Curriculum content, and understanding the prerequisite knowledge necessary to succeed in Year 8, has allowed our staff to better plan for Year 7 students. Staff will meet with Year 6 and 7 teachers from local intake primary schools during our transition days this term. This will help us better cater to the needs and requirements of Year 7 students and provide the right curriculum and support services to suit their age and abilities. We are confident that our Year 7 intake for 2015 will feel a sense of belonging and have maximum opportunities to reach their potential.

At the other end of the spectrum our Senior School students will also be experiencing changes to what has previously been offered. With the introduction of the new WACE 2015-16, staff have been busy in developing new course pathways for our Senior School students. It is important for students and parents to be informed of these changes in order that they choose the right course. Parents who were unable to attend the recent Year 10 and 11 Information Evenings can visit our website at lesmurdie.wa.edu.au and navigate to the information under the Curriculum tab in the Senior School section to obtain all the appropriate information regarding WACE 2015-16.

This term promises to be another busy one with Year 6 and Senior School Parent Nights, Open Day, NAPLAN Testing, Principal visits to Primary Schools, Year 6 and Year 7 half day transitions, Senior School exams, 2015 Enrolments, Interschool sporting events, ATAR revision seminars, Outdoor Ed camps, Year 10 course selection for Year 11 and of course it all culminates with student reports in Week 10.

Please stay in touch with what is happening this term by clicking on the Term Planner in the For Parents section of our website. If you prefer a good old-fashioned chat then call on 9291 1200 and our friendly office staff will handle your questions or concerns.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students and parents for your support in my time as Acting Principal. We really are blessed to be a part of this wonderful learning community.

Leo Surjan, Acting Principal

Sharon Atkinson and Brandon Vickers, part of the catafalque party at the ANZAC Commemoration
As part of the Lesmurdie Senior High School Career Development and Course Counselling program, all Year 10 students were invited to attend the Kalamunda Career Expo at the Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre.

The purpose of the Career Expo was to provide students with an opportunity to speak to universities and training and employment providers about career opportunities to assist them in making appropriate course selections for Senior School. Students were entertained by a motivational speaker, Greg Mitchell of Major Mitchell Productions, who challenged them to be brave when investigating their future, dare to dream and to work hard to achieve their goals. All students accessed information provided by the exhibitors and found the expo very worthwhile. It will help them make informed decisions in the Course Counseling process which will occur during Weeks 7 - 9 this term.

If you have any queries about the Course Counseling process, please contact me on 9291 1230 or by email to Amanda.Joiner@education.wa.edu.au.

Amanda Joiner, Senior School Manager

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Dear Dee,

Thank you for asking me to play the pipes again this year at your ANZAC commemoration. It is great a privilege for me to be able to participate in such an important ceremony.

It is even more special to take part in the ceremony at Lesmurdie High School, because it is so brilliantly organised. The speeches by the head boy and head girl and other students, the quality and enthusiasm of the school orchestra and its soloists, the excellent behaviour of the students, the courtesy of staff and students to me as a guest, the obvious respect of staff and students for one another, and in such an attractive setting persuade me that I should bring my wife next time (if you invite me again) just so that she can see how marvellous a school it is. If we had school-age children we would be wanting to send them to Lesmurdie, because I believe the positive culture that the school has developed is a catalyst for effective learning and would also provide a happy schooling experience. Well done for managing to do this, because I expect it is not easy these days.

Anyway, thanks to all concerned for another memorable ANZAC ceremony.

Best wishes,
Ron Thom
CURTIN COACHES
Curtin Coaches have returned to Lesmurdie Senior High School for 2014. The AHEAD in School Coaches program is a partnership between Lesmurdie and Curtin University students to bring academic support, mentoring and encouragement to students needing support.

CURTIN LINK UP
I was privileged to accompany my Year 10 Maths class to the Curtin Link Up Program. This is designed to give school students a taste of Uni life and to expose them to the many careers available.

Not only did it achieve that purpose, but it went on to explain how many current careers are heading for extinction due to the advancement of technology, as well as the many job opportunities that are still a work in progress. The students thoroughly enjoyed the mining activity we conducted and asked many pertinent questions. All students were encouraged to attend Curtin’s Open Day to familiarise themselves with the campus and other faculties in which they may be interested. Curtin’s Open Day is on Sunday 3 August with more information available at http://m.openday.curtin.edu.au.

I really enjoyed my day at Curtin with my students and wish them all the best for their future endeavours and careers. Thank you for entrusting me with your precious children’s maths education.

Jenny Bell, Maths Teacher

LEAP

Year 8 LEAP students visited SCITECH to supplement their studies in Physics. Robotics in the CSIRO Lab stretched the students in terms of lateral thinking, planning and problem solving. Programming for Robostart resulted in some great designs being produced, whilst completing an assignment in the main gallery had the students experimenting with a variety of forces and machines.

Miira Gallegos, Science Teacher

DRINKING GAMES
Theatrical Response Group (TRG) brought their interactive theatre performance of Drinking Games to Lesmurdie Senior High School. This performance powerfully and dramatically explored an important issue in young people’s lives today – teen alcohol abuse. The show aimed to empower students to overcome challenges relating to teen alcohol abuse and inspire them to take positive action in their lives. It explored some confronting themes including the consequences of alcohol abuse and how just one poor choice can have terrible consequences.

Drama students from Year 8 to 12 attended the performance and were engaged from start to finish. Students were enthralled by the powerful and, at times, emotionally intense performances from the visiting acting troupe.

After the visiting actors had finished their performance, students were invited to suggest ways in which a positive outcome could have been achieved for all characters by reconstructing key scenes from the show. Students were then asked to ‘play out’ their solution on stage and reflect on the merit of their chosen alternative. The student body showed a collective wisdom and sensitivity in dealing with issues presented in performance and were supportive of their peers in exploring these dilemmas through performance.

A sincere thank you must be given to the Theatrical Response Group for their powerful performance of Drinking Games. Students should be congratulated for their maturity, and bravery in their response to the performance. It was a rewarding experience for all involved.

Matt Randall Drama Teacher
BIOLOGY CAMP

Year 11 and 12 Biology students attended Perth Hills Discovery Centre for a two day Biology Camp. Based in Mundaring, the purpose of the camp was to learn about conserving our ecosystem and native flora and fauna. Our students set overnight traps as part of a monitoring marsupials program. They were lucky enough to trap one brush tail possum, record its data and release it back into the wild. This unique animal experience allowed us to get up close and personal with one of our native mammals. We also got to know birds of prey through a close encounter. The students had a really adventurous time and learned much during this fantastic experience.

Lance Woolf, Science Teacher

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DA VINCI DECATHLON

Lesmurdie Senior High School entered two teams in the Da Vinci Decathlon this year. This gruelling series of 10 intellectual tasks undertaken by the team, sees students challenged academically in disciplines including Engineering, Art and Poetry, Science, English, Creative Producers, Forensic Sleuths, Games of Strategy, Mathematics, and general knowledge, and provides valuable teamwork skills.

The Year 8 team competed against 23 other schools achieving

- 3rd in Engineering
- 6th in Maths
- 9th in General Knowledge

The Year 9 Team bravely took on predominately Year 10 teams from 20 other schools in the Senior competition.

Fine results were achieved in

- Engineering (4th)
- Art and Poetry (10th)
- Cartography (12th) and
- Code Breaking (7th)

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Some of the Year 9 Da Vinci team

Brock Mc Gregor, Tom Brockway, Thane Shuker, Austin Guthrie, Nathan Byron and Keelan Powell
While everyone was enjoying a nice sleep-in during the Easter school holidays, 25 Year 10 and 11’s were up nice and early at 7:00 am (NZ time) every morning for nine days.

During those nine days we had loads of fun doing a combination of sightseeing, hiking up mountains, go-karting, rafting and going on some exhilarating rides. Sometimes we were having so much fun we didn’t even realise it was a few hours past lunch time and we hadn’t eaten yet.

Every night when we arrived back at our accommodation we were welcomed by a delicious buffet of food and warm beds. The fun didn’t stop there. For many hours after dinner you would find us collaborating in each other’s rooms, staying up late to talk and have fun.

One of the most interesting things we did was something that would make many ‘Lord of the Rings’ fans jealous. This, of course, was going to ‘Hobbiton’ and enjoying a nice ginger beer at the ‘Green Dragon’.

Overall the trip was fantastic! If anyone was offered the opportunity I would certainly recommend it.

Holly Carse, Year 11
Eight Year 12 Outdoor Education students travelled to Far North Queensland for ten days during the April school holidays. It was an awesome outdoor adventure trip.

The trip included three days of white-water rafting on the Tully River, zip-lining over a crocodile enclosure at Cairns Zoo, jungle surfing, sea kayaking and snorkeling with green turtles on the Great Barrier Reef.

It was a pleasure taking away wonderful students Alex Roth, Kirsty Whitelaw, Shannon Moss, Micaela Crighton, Georgia Newbold, Jason Ellis, Mark Di Renzo and Mikayla Raschilla.

Huge thanks to Mrs Dowsett who made the trip an hilarious and entertaining event, and to Mr Taylor for all of his fantastic organisation prior to the trip.

Miss White (aka Hollywood)
Ten dedicated Modern History students made their way to Notre Dame University for a Student Seminar presented by members of the History Teachers Association of Western Australia.

The students were treated to an informative presentation from Cathy Baron with a focus on key content, themes and skills. All students agreed that it was worth getting up early on a Saturday and felt their understandings had been consolidated and enhanced. Being history students, they are well aware of the need to seek other perspectives on key aspects of their course and this experience will go a long way to building their confidence for their first semester exams. Well done to our committed and enthusiastic students, who later enjoyed hot beverages in the Fremantle sunshine.

**NOT SO HORRIBLE HISTORY**

Ella McLeod, Anica Bunag, Emily Martin, Bec Robinson, Petra Smit, Eloise Millard, Laura Rendell Absent: Kate Rubery and Natalie Pickles

Melinda Davies, Modern History Teacher

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**50 WORD STORIES**

The AATE (Australian Association for Teaching English) is celebrating its 50 year anniversary with a ‘50 Word Fiction Competition’.

The competition is open to all students across Year 7-12. Entries are due in before the end of Term 3, so there is plenty of time to get creative and ‘fine tune’ your 50 words. Prizes are on offer for the best story and are as follows: Junior Category: Years 7/8/9 1st prize - $150 book voucher; 2nd prize - $100 book voucher; 3rd prize - $50 book voucher. Senior Category: Years 10/11/12 1st prize - $300 book voucher; 2nd prize - $200 book voucher; 3rd prize - $100 book voucher. All stories submitted by students at Lesmurdie Senior High School will also go into a school-based competition, to be judged by a panel of LSHS teachers. Prizes will be awarded in junior and senior categories, and winners published in the newsletter.

All you need to do is write an original 50 word fictional story! How easy is that? The theme is ‘Golden Stories’ and it must be written in the form of a short story and be exactly 50 words. There is a limit of two entries per person, and the work must be original and unpublished. See your English teacher for a submission form and get writing!

Ms Teasdale’s class have already started, and used ‘The Scarlatti Tilt’ for inspiration. It is written by Richard Brautigan and is 34 words in length. Note how much can be said in so few words.

**‘The Scarlatti Tilt’**

“It’s very hard to live in a studio apartment in San Jose with a man who’s learning to play the violin.” That’s what she told the police when she handed them the empty revolver.

Monique Ryan, English Teacher
Twenty-four dedicated mathematics students participated in a very relevant and meaningful two hour 3AB Maths revision seminar held in our Lesmurdie Community Library. The seminar gave them the opportunity to combine the skills they have developed this year with the knowledge gained in lower years to tackle exam style questions.

A second session for 2CD Math will be held on 27 May
Homework classes for Year 10 LEAP, 2AB, 2CD and 3AB students run every Wednesday in C1 from 3.00 - 4.00pm.

Lesmurdie Senior High School hosted three visiting Principals from Northam SHS, Central Midlands SHS and Merredin College here to look at our video conferencing program and IPS.

**MATHS SEMINAR**

**WHEN:** Saturday 24 May and 31 May
9.00am - 5.00pm

**WHERE:** Lesmurdie Library

Arrive and leave at any time.
Breaks throughout the day.
BYO lunch, morning and afternoon tea supplied.

Take the pressure off, get your revision programs happening.

**STAFF CHANGES TERM 2**

Welcome to Mr Phillip Tonkin who joins our S&E team to teach Geography and lower school S&E. We also welcome both Ms Jessica Cubbage and Ms Jodie Lynch back from maternity leave.
Volunteers are desperately needed to keep our school canteen operating. We have four weeks to improve takings or the canteen will close.

The canteen is an integral part of the school which many of the students use. It would be a great shame if this service was no longer available.

Volunteers will receive a lovely fresh lunch and their children lunch to the value of $5.00 each.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please contact the canteen on 9291 1222.

**LIBRARY e MATTERS**

Reading e-books has become easy at Lesmurdie Community Library. We are your local public library as well as your school library.

Every student at Lesmurdie Senior High School, and anyone who has a Shire of Kalamunda library membership, can download e-books or audiobooks from the library collection to their preferred reading device.

The Overdrive online e-lending platform is easy to use with clear instructions for downloading the App.

To borrow a book from our e-Library collection to read on your phone or tablet:

1. Go to http://wapldmc.lib.overdrive.com
2. Browse the collection of over 5000 books (all Young Adult books are listed under Teen Fiction)
3. Click on the book that takes your fancy.
4. Click on ‘Read in your browser’.

You can also download the OVERDRIVE software from the West Australian Public Library Digital Media Collection to enhance your reading experience (WAPLDMC).

Cannot find the title you want?

– Recommend it and be the first to borrow it after it has been purchased by the Digital Media Collection.

Want to know more? – Visit us at Lesmurdie Community Library on the school campus.

We are open from 8.15 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays) and Saturday mornings 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

**UNIFORMS**

As the cold weather arrives it is timely to remind students of the uniform policy. In particular;

- Only white short or long sleeved t-shirts are permitted under school shirts.
- Only the school jumper or jacket is acceptable.
- Black stockings or tights are only to be worn with tartan skirts. Flesh coloured stockings should be worn with beige skirt or shorts.

The full Uniform Policy is available on the website.

If you have any uniforms you no longer require, Student Services would gratefully receive them. There are very limited supplies available to be borrowed.

**URGENT MESSAGES**

Sometimes parents need to contact students urgently. As phone calls can not be taken by students during class time and students are not to leave class without permission, should you need to get an urgent message to your child, please call 9291 1200. Your request will be acted on quickly and we are able to better support students in emotional or stressful situations.

Should your child need to speak to you during classtime, they should ask to leave the class and speak to the Lower School Manager (Year 8-9) or Senior School Coordinator (Years 10-12).

Further more, any student leaving the school grounds must be signed out at Student Services.
WANTED: COMMUNITY MENTORS

Lesmurdie Senior High School has a long and significant history of community-based mentoring through the School Volunteers Program. Under the coordination of the School Chaplain, volunteer community mentors spend one hour per week ‘making a difference’ in the life of a student.

We are currently seeking new mentors from our local community to help support students through their high school journey.

If this program sparks your (or maybe someone else’s) interest, then find out more about joining our wonderful team of committed and motivated mentors by contacting Grant Collins (Chaplain) on 9291 1217 or grant.collins@education.wa.edu.au for more information.

HOSTS FOR FRENCH STUDENTS NEEDED

For the last eight years a program has been in place offering the opportunity to young French students aged 16-17 years to discover Australia and its education system.

We are looking for families willing to host students for two or four weeks of their visit (17 July - 18 August 2014). The students will be part of a larger group of 25 students who spend four weeks with their respective school. They will travel to and from school with your children.

The program gives French students the opportunity to experience living with an Australian family, to see how an Australian school operates, to improve their English language skills through this full immersion, and to create a strong friendship with their Anglophone peers. The program is highly successful and both Australians and French students greatly enjoy the exchange. Many families still keep in touch with each other. The students are fully briefed about the school rules, are not to leave the school premises and will attend classes daily. They will be fully covered by appropriate insurance.

Host families will be visited prior to the arrival by the organiser to explain the program. We believe such an exchange is also highly beneficial for our Modern Languages students, opening their eyes (and ears!) to similarly minded students for an extended period.

Please contact Martine Floyd at aupairoz@iinet.net.au or 0403 019 609 if you are interested in hosting.

CHEERS

An afternoon of music from the 1940s, war movie themes and a tribute to those who fell on June 6th 1944

June 8th 2014 at 3pm
Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre Canning Rd Kalamunda
Tickets $15 each
Visit www.perthhillsandwheatbeltband.yolasite.com to reserve tickets

Year Twelve students Teneal Fleming and Kimberley Miller recently returned from competing in two International Cheer-leading competitions in the USA. April 2014. They finished 2nd and 3rd at these competitions.
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.

FUN RUN

The Annual Fun Run was a great way to finish a very successful term. Year 10 student Keiren Higgs finished the 2.2 kilometre course in overall first position in a time of 8mins 05sec.

It was great to see some of our new teachers on board for the run, particularly Kym Smith (Maths), Christine Evans (Home Economics) and winning male teacher, Johnny Armstrong (Phys Ed).

Wallis had the greatest number of competitors earning extra Bounty points, whilst Weston did well in the novelty events.

Well done to all who participated and we look forward to our champion students competing in the Interschool X-Country on 22 May.

Cross-Country Champions and Runners Up 2014

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<td>Yr 8 Girl</td>
<td>Kara Spadbury</td>
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<td>Declan McLeod</td>
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<td>Yr 9 Girl</td>
<td>Sarah Howard</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Boy</td>
<td>Kieren Higgs</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Girl</td>
<td>Taylah Cartwright</td>
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And they're off!