From the Co-Principals ...

There has recently been some publicity around school fees and commentary is often made about fees in private schools without accurate facts to hand. At The Launceston Preparatory School we keep our fees as low as practicably possible to enfranchise as broad a demographic as possible.

Our fees are organised as a flat fee structure across all grades so the annual school fee for each child is the same regardless of year group. This is a different approach to other independent schools in Launceston.

The Launceston Preparatory School fees include all educational supplies such as Maths textbooks, stationery items, ICT equipment, Art supplies and excursion costs. (The only exceptions are the Outdoor Education camps for students in Grades 4, 5 and 6, where parents’ contributions are added to subsidies from the school). Students need only supply a stocked pencil case and uniform items, including school bag.

The Launceston Preparatory School does not apply any other levies, building or otherwise, to the annual fees. To gain an idea of just how much is included in our fees in addition to our daily curriculum, consider this list of what our students enjoy at no extra cost to parents:

- Instrument hire for Band (Grades, 4, 5, 6)
- Swimming lessons (Grades P – 6)
- Interschool sports programme and travel costs (Grades 4, 5, 6)
- Theatre productions
- All excursions (excluding overnight camps)
- Online literacy programme accessible at school and home (2,3)
- Specialist sports coaching clinics
- Use of the local PCYC gym and equipment
- Regular visits by children’s authors, illustrators, performance groups and guest speakers

In 2018 the annual fee for the family’s first child attending, in any grade from Prep through to Grade 6, is $7160.00. This fee does not escalate according to grade. In addition, there are discounts for additional family members attending The LPS and for early payment of the annual fee. Fees for Early Learning and Kindergarten are calculated according to the number of days for which a student is enrolled.

With our high quality teaching staff, producing strong academic and personal outcomes in our students, and beautiful school facilities, we believe the school fee structure of The LPS offers exceptionally good value!

In “Truth and Happiness”
Leonie McNair and Harriet Thyne
Co-Principals
“At the beginning...”

Kinder Scientists

During Science Week (week 4) Kindergarten students engaged in a variety of fun kitchen science experiments. Kitchen science involved conducting science experiments from basic things you can find in your kitchen. We performed experiments called ‘Magic Milk’, ‘Lemon Volcanoes’, ‘Wizard’s Brew’ and ‘Oily Water’. These simple ingredients found in your kitchen cupboards allow children to perform safe, fun and easy experiments to explore many basic scientific principles.

Jacqui Wise

Book Week 2018!
“In the middle ...”

Ruby had a little lamb....

...whose fleece was white as snow...

Thank you to Ruby Martin (and her mum) for bringing in one of their adorable lambs, ‘Amber’, aged just 18 days old! There was much ‘oohing and aahing’ at this gentle little creature, particularly when she gave us a few little bleats. It certainly made the nursery rhyme come true!

Mary had a little lamb,
   Whose fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
   The lamb was sure to go.
It followed her to school one day
   Which was against the rules.
It made the children laugh and play,
   To see a lamb at school.
“Why does the lamb love Mary so?”
   The eager children cry.
“Why Mary loves the lamb, you know.”
   The teacher did reply.

What a wonderful experience!

Last week, in our Philosophy time, the group 2/3 children were invited to be an audience for two senior debates. This was a wonderful experience for the children as they got to see first hand how the senior children develop their debating skills from debating for the first time in Group 4 through to being a seasoned debater by the time they are Leavers.

The children were genuinely excited about having this opportunity and were so interested in the arguments from both the affirmative and negative teams in each debate. Being able to see the older children speak so confidently to a group was inspiring for the children and gave them some great ideas for when they have to present a talk to their group in Term 4.
Thank you to the senior debaters and Mrs McNair for a VERY entertaining morning.

Students of the Week

In Resilience this week, we continued to talk to the children about all the qualities we look for when deciding who is making our school a great place to be. We love it when children help one another to come up with strategies that help deal with issues that arise at school.

Each week the teachers are on the lookout for children that are consistently displaying thoughtful, helpful and caring qualities. This week Ellie MacFarlane, Samantha Woolridge, Ava Corbould and Bastian Andrews (who was unfortunately away) were the deserving recipients of our “Looking Glasses” and a particularly creepy eyeball to take home to share. Well done.

Towards the end …

Well that’s debatable …!

Last week, the senior students participated in their first formal debates for the year. Debating skills had been practised in isolation last term and were put into effect in these debates. We explored the following topics:

- “That sight would be the worst sense to lose.”
- “That the war on waste is a waste of time.”
- “That every child should have a pet.”

Debating meets several criteria of the Australian English Curriculum but it is also invaluable for other, less quantifiable skills it develops:
• confidence
• team work
• clarity of thought and expression
• organisation of ideas
• critical listening
• broadening horizons
• capacity to think about “big” ethical questions
• empathy and tolerance for different perspectives.

We talk a lot about tackling the nervous excitement that inevitably precedes debating and the more experienced students offer great advice for the beginners. I was immensely proud of all the students but particularly those Group 4 children who participated for the first time. The smiles on their faces after experiencing debating success were heart-warming!
Socratic Seminar - Understanding

This week's quote during Socratic seminar from *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle was, “I don’t understand it any more than you do, but one thing I’ve learned is that you don’t have to understand things for them to be.”

- When have you experienced the feeling of not having the answer?
- How can not having the answer affect you or others?
- How do you deal with unknown or situations you don’t understand?
- Can we always have the answer for what is happening? Why/why not?
- Why do we feel we need to understand everything for it to be?
- Why does the unknown make people feel uncomfortable?
- When in life might you experience situations you don’t understand?

Coordinating Mathematics...

This week, senior students are working on grid references and co-ordinates and will be learning about how these are the basis for finding our way around using maps, and for constructing graphs. What better way to get into the topic than the game of ‘Battleships’! This game can be played with a basic alpha-numeric grid (ask your kids!) or with the Cartesian Plane (this might have given you the horrors at high school!) which uses numeric co-ordinates that can be positive or negative. Winning the game by destroying your enemy’s fleet is a real incentive to getting the coordinates in the right order!

Mr Michael Burgess
Like all other Grades 3 and 5 students around Australia, our students in those age groups participated in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy) tests last May. The results of these tests are usually available to schools and parents by mid-August. However, there has been a delay in the release of NAPLAN reports due to concern over aggregating results from those schools that completed the tests online with those that completed paper versions. The National Report on NAPLAN 2018 has finally been released this week but student reports are yet to be forwarded to schools. The timing of this is completely in the hands of government agencies but it appears as though NAPLAN results will not be available until at least next week. As soon as they arrive at school, we will forward them to families.

**NAPLAN results**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 4th September</td>
<td>Prep/G1 HPE day activities. Parents invited! 11am -12noon, Croquet Lawn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5th September</td>
<td>LPS Athletics Carnival, St Leonards Athletics Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10th September</td>
<td>3-4pm Kinder – Group 3 Parents information session for the EveryBody Program, MPH (upstairs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11th September</td>
<td>Kinder visit to Launceston Gardens Retirement Village, 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11th September</td>
<td>Parents’ Club meeting, 7:30pm Mrs Thyne’s homeroom. All welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, 11th and Wed 12th Sept</td>
<td>Kinder – Group 3 EveryBody Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12th September</td>
<td>Prep visit to Eureka Retirement Village, 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12th September</td>
<td>Book Club (issue 6) orders due please</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 13th September</td>
<td>Meerkats Production of the story “Boy” by Phil Cummings, KS 6, 9:30am</td>
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<td>Thursday, 20th September</td>
<td>Prep/Group 1 afternoon visit to ‘Spiders’ exhibition, QVMAG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 24th September</td>
<td>Senior students’ DEEP and ‘Cabinets of Wonder’ display, MPH, from 1:30pm – 3.00pm.</td>
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<td>Friday, 28th September</td>
<td>Final day of Term 3 for staff and students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 16th October</td>
<td>First day of Term 4 for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 16th Oct – Fri 19th Oct</td>
<td>Grade 6 Leavers’ Camp at Woodfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 27th October</td>
<td>The Launceston Preparatory School Car Boot Sale, 10am, on the Greenfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14th Nov – Fri 16th Oct</td>
<td>Grade 4/5 Camp to Port Sorell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 20th December</td>
<td>Final day of Term 4 for students and staff</td>
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Acknowledging and thanking all the wonderful men, fathers, grandfathers, friends and mentors who guide and shape our children’s lives, we wish you all a lovely Fathers’ Day this Sunday.

While rummaging through my bookshelves at home recently I stumbled across Romulus, My Father by Raimond Gaita, a book that had a huge impact on me as a father.

Romulus, My Father is a lovingly told memoir of a hard-working father who remained faithful to his family and friends despite his wife’s affairs, her mental illness and dealing with the hardships of earning a living in 1950s and ’60s rural Australia. It’s a tale of love, friendship and character.

One line in the book, “I know what a good man is because I saw it in my father,” struck an instant chord with me. It was a reminder that kids need to have close experiences with men who have real depth of character and strength if they are to adopt those qualities themselves and also look for them in partners.

Role models of quality

Sadly, children and young people are less likely to see these qualities in many of our current political leaders and other public figures. Self-interest and shallowness of character, at least in a public sense, seems to be standard fare at present.

Like Gaita, I had the good fortune to have a father who was also a good man. He wasn’t wealthy, famous or ambitious. Rather he was kind, considerate and generous. He had experienced an unhappy and – I suspect though he never spoke of it – abusive childhood but he was determined that his children would never experience the same treatment that he received.

As a disciplinarian he was soft but that didn’t mean he was a pushover. He’d stand his ground with his children over issues that really mattered, such as how we siblings treated each other, displays of dishonesty and disrespect, and taking shortcuts in our studies or with work. He was a community-minded man who, through his example, taught his children the importance of serving and giving to those who didn’t have the same serving of luck that we did. He was also an involved father who, despite being busy, always had time to play cricket and football after work with my brother and me. He was never too busy for his children.

A compass and a map

Significantly, my father gave me my moral compass in the form of the value system that he lived by. His many sayings including his most popular mantra: “If you can’t say a good word about anyone don’t say anything at all”. That still rattles around in my head today. Through his active community involvement, his devotion to family and...
**THE LAUNCESTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL - TERM DATES 2019**

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<th>TERM 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February to Thursday, 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>Tuesday, 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April to Friday, 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
<td>Tuesday, 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; July to Friday, 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October to Wednesday, 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December</td>
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*Easter Break falls during April holidays (Good Friday 19th April 2019)*