It is wonderful to see how settled all our students are into their classroom learning. The tone across the school is lovely. It has only been 4 weeks and on top of our priority on learning we have managed to squeeze in a parent class information night, P&C, School Council and Professional Learning meetings, the Transition to School Program, SRC elections, Swimming Practice, Ukulele, Music, Choir, French, Technology Studies, Gymnastics, Scripture, as well as famous Authors, World Leading experts on Reef Spawning, CPR lessons, Swim School Instructors and not to mention the sensational Fish Fry & Discovery Day. What an awesome event. The crowd was constant and everyone worked together perfectly. There were parents and teachers setting up and helping from the beginning of the day through to 11:30p.m that night. It just blows me away to see how everyone can come together and run such an awesome process. The positive and respectful relationships across our school community underpin and support the students’ development of strong identities as learners. The modelling and exposure to these wonderful opportunities builds positive relationships and actively contributes to the school, the community and the society in which we all live. This stuff influences our kids for life! And we are raising serious funds for the P&C to support the school!

Of course, the shenanigans continued after dinner with the Discovery Night races and events. It was a sight to behold with pre-schoolers to golden oldies participating, getting involved and having fun. The night was very relaxed, entertaining and a lot of fun. My Hammies are still sore. Special mention has to go out to our mums, dads, teachers, the P&C team and especially to our President Kelly Galloway. Team, a huge thank you for yet another massively successful night.

Trev Mason
School Carnival - The Swimming Carnival is on this Friday. We will be starting the Swimming Carnival at 10a.m. to allow for the tides and to assist with setting up the event. There will be no Lunch orders from the Canteen or Scripture on this day. All kids must have a parent with them if they are getting lunch from Anchorage or Thompson’s Store. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. We still need parent helpers to support us with safely running the carnival. Please see Mrs Roberts asap if you are able to help.

Writing Competition - We are encouraging our kids to extend their skills in writing by entering our School Writing Competition! Entrants are encouraged to let their imaginations and creativity run wild. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 are welcome to enter. All entries must be in to Mr Mason by Wednesday, week 7 - 9th March 2016. To accommodate the different levels of writers we are holding 3 divisions in the competition.

Group 1: Kindy, Year 1 & Year 2 (Early Stage 1 and Stage 1), Group 2: Year 3 and 4 (Stage 2) & Group 3: Year 5 and 6 (Stage 3).

Winners for each division will receive a $20 Smiggle eGift Card and our Runners up will receive a student pen pack. Good luck everyone.

A Safe Return - Every now and then we get a reminder of how fortunate and blessed our lives are. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Walsh family for a speedy recovery.

Clam Survey Excursion - Our Sea week adventures are fast approaching (we have delayed the official Sea Week procedures due to safety factors around the tides) so we will be holding our Clam Survey adventure on Monday at 12.30 p.m. on the 7th of March. We are in the process of forming our team of parents and local Marine Parks experts so we are able to make the most of this opportunity. If you are able to come along and support on the day please contact Trev Mason at the school as soon as possible. This links directly with our Science, Geography and Maths learning areas where our kids will gain experience in a real world marine environment. This fantastic opportunity is not possible without the support of the LHI Marine Parks’ Tasman Douglas and Cameron Lay.

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Special Visitor - I still remember the impact when reading Gabriel Lord’s first published book Fortress. The book was later developed into a major film starring Rachael Ward. On Monday the famous author visited our school to address and share her story with the students. She then showed a special clip from her Conspiracy 365 Series. Gabrielle Lord has written many books for adults and teenagers alike. She is an international best selling author and we thank her for her time and contribution to our school.

School Council - The Lord Howe Island Central School Council (LHICSC) Annual General Meeting was held last Monday week. There were many important issues discussed and we welcomed our new parent representative Audrey Ball and our new staff representative Kylie Martin. The School Council’s role is in making sure that the whole community is involved in all the important decisions made by the school.

School Chaplaincy - Lord Howe Island Central School is seeking to fill our School Chaplain position for 2016 to 2018. The tenure is for 3 years. Potential applicants are asked to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI). All EOIs are to be sent via email to Darren McMahon at admin@yourdream.org.au from Your Dream Incorporated. The EOI application process will close on March 7th. The final applicant will be decided by the LHICS Council on the 21.03.16.

School Council Parent Report - Hi everyone,
My first School Council meeting was definitely an eye opener into what goes on behind the scenes. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Woolie and Julia for nominating me into the role. They definitely left big shoes to fill. In our first meeting we went through the normal formalities followed by the Principals Report, which included the following; LHICSC constitution, School council aims, representative roles and responsibilities, 2015 annual financial statement, 2016 planned resource allocation model, 2016 budget outline, the Chaplaincy program EOI and applications & Communication processes. If there is anything you would like to discuss please feel free to approach either myself or Luke as your parent representatives.
Regards Audrey Ball

Farewell - Due to family and work commitments our Music teacher Inga Brashe will sadly be finishing her last music class tomorrow. Inga has made a positive and unique contribution to our school music program and we wish her well in her future endeavours. A huge thank you Ms Inga Brasche for her fine input and efforts towards our school.

We will be hosting a specialist singing workshop on the 7th of March (before our Clam Survey Excursion) to run some unique singing experiences with the kids.

Rockfest - We need parents to contribute $15 per child to pay for the Rockfest shirts please. Please send in the contribution to the school office.

Our teachers and students are busily practising some special Island songs for the Rockfest week. Just a reminder that Rockfest is on earlier this year. The week kicks off on the Saturday night, the 14th of March. All specific days, times and details to follow in the next newsletter.

North Bay Camp - The North Bay School Camp will be held on the last Thursday and Friday of term 1. A note will come home regarding the details and equipment needed. We will be asking for a $25 contribution for food.