

Address to Lakeland Senior High School

by

Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP

on

Wednesday, 8 September 2010

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to be at your school today as a part of your 'whole of school' assembly.

I acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we have gathered today and I pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Noongar Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are present.

I acknowledge:

- Mr Laurie Longworth, Principal;
- Teachers and staff;
- Members of the School Council;
- Parents & Friends of the school community; and
- Students.

Schools are a very important part of all communities.

It is from our education system that students learn so much to prepare them for their journey through life.

I reference your school's motto 'Strive to Achieve' which in my opinion reflects what each and everyone of us needs to embrace whether it is academically or in other fields of endeavour such as sport, music, song, dance or other pursuits that inspire excellence.

At the inaugural Youth Olympics in Singapore recently one of the most common statements from competitors was, I achieved a PB or personal best – they didn't win a medal but through their 'striving to achieve' attitude they produced results that gave them and those that supported them a great sense of pride.

Reading your school's monthly publication of Lakeland Lines I see how each and every one of you contribute to achieving your own personal best outcomes and how you enrich the standing of your school in the community.

I have also had the honour of being present when public recognition of your achievements has occurred and to see first hand how proud each and every one of you reacted to the announcement.

Importantly, I also saw how proud your family members were and also Mr Longworth and other teachers – for them it reflects on their contribution to your personal growth and re-enforces the values of family and the school community.

Last night my wife Patricia and I, together with Councillor Sue Limbert attended a Chaplaincy Celebration Event at the Hamilton Senior High School to recognise and acknowledge the work of Chaplains in their school.

Our City is a strong supporter of chaplaincy services throughout our district and today I want to acknowledge the excellent contribution chaplains make to the community – may God bless their continued efforts and their interactions with each and every one of you and your families.

Last night my wife referred me to The West Australian newspaper and a snapshot of your School Ball photographs taken in June this year at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

I must say that when my wife and I arrived at the Esplanade Hotel to attend another function on that same night I had stopped on the pavement to telephone our son when I noticed the limos arriving at the hotel – to which I advised our son that we had to park our limo down the road because of the logjam of limos at the front of the hotel.

I would like to thank you for the very warm welcome my wife and I received when we popped our head in to say hello during your School Ball – it was wonderful to see students and staff enjoying themselves on what is a very special occasion on the school calendar.

I look forward to attending your school's Year 12 Graduation Ceremony on Friday 29 October.

In closing, I again acknowledge the excellent contribution that you as students are making to our community.

To Mr Longworth and the teachers and staff and the wider school community I know that your efforts are highly valued and respected.

Our City looks forward to continuing the close partnership we have with your school.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be here today.