Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to our final 2013 newsletter. It has been an absolute pleasure celebrating the vast range of student achievement during the last 5 days of Awards Parades and Graduation Ceremony at Burpengary State School.

Staffing News: New permanent appointments to Burpengary State School in 2014 are: Leanne Odorico (Deputy Principal – relocated to Burpengary from Jinibara SS); Scott Johnston (Year 5); Alicia Jory (Prep); and Christine Gould (Year 7). Teachers who have been transferred from Burpengary are Jenna Connolly and Simone Bowden.

New contract teachers to Burpengary are: Yasmin Kam-Yuen (Year 6) and Bliss Filippini (Year 3). Continuing contract teachers are: Ian Trowbridge (SEP); Caitlyn Germain (Year 4); David Firth (Year 4); Rachael Torres (Year 2); Natalie Cooper (Prep) and Amy Smith (Year 1). We also welcome back Linda Mahony (Year 3), who has been on leave. I also take this opportunity to thank Karen O’Connell (Year 7) and Stephen Woodward (Year 7) for their great service to the school on contract during 2013.

Predicted class configuration for 2014:
5 x Prep; 1 x Composite Prep-1; 5 x Year 1; 5 x Year 2; 1 x Composite Year 2-3; 6 x Year 3; 4 x Year 4; 1 x Composite Year 4-5; 4 x Year 5; 4 x Year 6; 4 x Year 7.

Predicted classes for 2014: It is very hard to accurately predict class configurations for 2014 at Burpengary, as even small numbers of enrolments will affect class sizes up to day 8. I point out that the notification that parents and carers receive in the mail next week about next year’s class allocation could be subject to change by Day 8 next year depending on where new enrolments fall. All classes will be close to maximum size, and composites could still form at other locations throughout the school.

The Christmas Disco attracted 536 students from Prep to Year 7 – thanks to students, staff and P&C members who volunteered their time and made this event such a memorable night in our calendar. It is these types of fundraising events that enable our P&C to contribute to the school budget. I take this opportunity to thank our P&C for the $35,000 they spent on our grounds, some air-conditioning of key sites in the kitchen and SEP, and data projectors in class rooms during 2013. I cannot thank the P&C enough for this stunning support for learning.

As families do the back to school shopping in January 2014, I stress the absolute importance of appropriate footwear for school. The school policy is plain black, lace-up shoes with no coloured trim or accessories (leather or vinyl preferred). Growing feet need a sturdy sole, good heel counter, arch support, and protection from hot spills, drops and garden tools in the kitchen/garden program extensively done throughout all year groups in the school. Please see the photo below and stick rigidly to it when purchasing. Please note that Dunlop Volleys do, but that other soft canvas shoes do not meet this description.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays: We need you to look out for after-hours crime at our school. If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number –13 17 88 – and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Reports went home on Wednesday, and next year’s class allocation letter will be mailed to arrive early next week. Not all year levels were finalised by Wednesday, and I will release the information to everybody at the same time.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the staff and students of Burpengary State School, to wish our community the very best of wishes for the Christmas season, and a healthy, happy and productive New Year. Have a safe and happy holiday.

School resumes for students next year on Tuesday, January 28, 2014.

Until next year

Brad Fox
Principal
CRICOS Provider No.: 00608A