Dear Parents

In some way or another, most of my newsletter this week, is related to facilities. As you know, building and grounds improvements are very costly and we look for any avenue to make them occur. At present, we have a few projects occurring or in the pipeline, plus a few where maintenance is the major concern. I'll outline them below.

Maintenance
Sadly, in the last week, we had some vandalism occur to our buildings. A person, or persons unknown, thought it fun to smash holes in just about every panel of the wall around Steve's Chaplaincy room and under ‘A’ block. This morning we got quotes to replace the damaged fibro sheets with ‘Colourbond’ micro-orb metal sheeting which is attractive, strong and hard wearing. This should be installed in the next two weeks to restore this area to a better standard than it was and make it somewhat vandal proof.

Over the past 4 or 5 years, with the very heavy rains, our tennis court has taken a battering. Water, soil and rocks have flowed across the surface and cracks have opened up due to subsidence. Last term, we engaged a contractor to give as quote to resurface it but he said that is would not make any difference as more rain would only cut the court up again. So now we are in the process of looking to remove the courts and fences completely and have that area restored to grass. This is unfortunate but there is little we can do. I expect the removal process to take place over the Christmas holidays and until that time, the courts will be out of bounds for everyone.

Lastly, the ‘C’ Block veranda is to be completely replaced. It has been there since the block was built in the seventies and maintenance is now due. This job will also have to occur over the holidays when no students or teachers are present. It will end up being a much stronger and resilient surface that will last for at least 30 years.

New Projects
Happily I can report that we are able to have some new work done at school. The first is the work being done in the Indigenous Learnscape area. It is being brought up to a much better standard through the efforts of parents in working bees, but also through the work of contractors. Yesterday, the bottom end has been totally reshaped to allow better access and easier mowing. It is also easier to see and access from the oval so it can now be enjoyed by many more people.

In a few weeks time, the grass will have grown back and it will be a very attractive and tidy area. All in all, 4.5 tonnes of organic matter and other refuse was removed which means most of the ‘big stuff’ in the garden is done. To take care of the ‘little stuff’ we have another working bee coming up on Saturday week, so mark that date – November 23 – on your calendar.

Our other upgrade is to our computer lab in the library. At present, it has the capacity for 22 computers, not quite enough for a class. Very shortly, we will add another 6 ports to bring it up to 28 which is basically one computer per student in most classes that use it.

Enrolment Management Plan
As of the first day of 2014, our school will be enrolment managed. Most would not be familiar with that phrase but probably would know the more common terms like ‘capped’ or ‘catchment area’. We will have a gazetted catchment area from next year and would be obliged to enrol only students from within it. The cap refers to how many students our school can comfortably take. EQ believes that number to be 420. Enrolment Management Plans then, are essentially facilities based. How many can we cater for without having to build new classrooms? With our present enrolments being around 365, we have plenty of room under our cap and this will have
no effect on those currently enrolled. However, the forward projections for the Taigum/Fitzgibbon area indicate quite some growth over the next ten years, so somewhere down the track, we may find we need the cap enforced.

Staffing
Last week I must have been distracted. I made two mistakes in my article about staffing for 2014. Firstly, our new teacher is Anita Fitzpatrick (not Fitzgerald as I wrote last week) Secondly, I forgot to note that Mr Crow has been transferred to Mt Isa. We will miss him greatly, but he is looking forward to his new challenge in the country. We wish him well. It will be a great experience I'm sure.

Past Student Achievement
Congratulations to Daniel Innes, who did his primary schooling with us a few years back. He was named Dux of Aspley State High School this week. What a great achievement for that young man. I hope an OP 1 is in his near future as well.

Mark Fisher
Principal

Students of the Week

Prep B - Kobe for some interesting science observations
Prep CD - Alex for staying on task and trying his best at all times
Year 1i - Robbie for being able to recall his number facts quickly
Year 1L - Milan for a great performance in the ‘Little Red Hen’
Year 1N - Valcen for using a clear strong voice to deliver the weather report to the class
Year 2H - Anard for always doing his best
Year 2J - Samuel for excellent behaviour
Year 3B - Sahej for exemplary manners
Year 3TM - Maya for a very good attempt at her oral poetry presentation, and Brandon for fantastic square dancing
Year 4C - Lincoln for an improved effort in the classroom
Year 4/5G - Ekam for an excellent attitude to schoolwork and the very best of manners
Year 5W - Alex and Brandon for an excellent effort in his written comparison of Storm Boy novel and film
Year 6S - Depandra for working consistently on his assessment in reading groups
Year 6/7G - Mika for always displaying appropriate behaviour
Year 7C - Asmita for her excellent attitude and always making sure she understands and completes all work

BOOK AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their bookwork on Friday 15th November 2013.

- 1i - Quincy
- 1L - Anushka
- 1N - Rhiana
- 2H - Audrey
- 2J - Maddie and Tahjuan
- 3B - Ketarna
- 3TM - Jonas
- 4C - Keely
- 4/5G - Tiffany
- 5W - Marcell
- 6S - Lavinia
- 6/7G - Abbi
- 7C - Chola
2014 ENROLMENT and HOLIDAY INTENTIONS

Please advise the office in writing if you have children currently in years Prep to Year 6 who will NOT be attending this school in 2014. If you have a child starting Prep next year and have not completed the enrolment paperwork, please do so as soon as possible. This is very important for us to know for staffing purposes.

If you are having an extended summer holiday and do not intend starting school on the first day, 28 January 2014, could you please put this in writing and forward to the office with your child for auditing purposes.

SCHOOL SWIMMING

All students must wear a swimming cap and rash vest so please remember to pack these items along with your togs and towel.

Only those students with an illness substantiated by a letter from their parent or a medical certificate will be excused from swimming lessons.

2014 BOOKLISTS

Order forms for 2014 Booklist requirements (Prep – Year 7) were sent home with your child last term. Please ensure you have received your copy.

If you wish to purchase the pre-packed supplies, please return your order form with payment to the office on or before Wednesday 27 November.

Your pre-packed supplies will then be available for collection from the school between Wednesday 22nd January and Friday 24th January 2014.

FROM THE P&C

Hi Everyone,
The next few weeks will be super busy for all of us, and we have some exciting things coming up!

Firstly, the P&C will be selling hot food during the Senior Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 3rd December. This year we are offering a Pizza Combo deal which consists of a pizza and can of drink for only $5. Order forms will be sent out this week. We will also be selling lollies, soft drinks and icy poles! Remember that food will only be available on the Tuesday, and ALL students are welcome to place orders.

The Grade 7’s Graduation Bears are here! Please bring your money into the Uniform Shop ASAP to guarantee your special TSS memento.

We are very excited to announce that this year we will be selling, once again, our flashing glow goodies during the Candles by Candlenight! There will be awesome flashing mouth-guards, flashing bracelets and necklaces along with an assortment of Christmas themed goodies too! Look out for a demo during Parade in the coming weeks!
I’d like to thank everyone who helped out selling icy poles last Friday during Interschool sports, help is always greatly appreciated. I’d like to say a special Thank You to the Grade 7 girls who have helped throughout the term; you’re all amazing!
Finally, don’t forget that it is our WWW Big Breakfast next Wednesday (27th December). It is still only $2 for a sausage and 50c for a drink, so don’t forget to bring some money with you!
Many thanks and have a great week!
Chloe Boswell
P&C President.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Only 5 weeks till Christmas! One thing I love about Christmas is all the gift giving and the sense of community that comes with all the parties, carols nights and time with the family. Up at the Salvo Church, we’re accepting donations of toys & non-perishable food to give away to those in need. So if you’d like to share with our community this Christmas you can give your donations to me or bring them up to the Salvo Church.

Many thanks,

Steve Unicomb

STUDENT COUNCIL

ICY CUPS

Icy cups will be on sale each Thursday, 2nd break, from the hall canteen. Cost is still only 50 cents.
FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Change of Tuckshop day in last week of school.
Tuckshop will be open on Wednesday 11 December instead of Friday 13 December, as this is the last day of school.

The tuckshop is also running a raffle starting on Friday 22 November. The raffle will run until Friday 6 December, with prizes drawn on this day. Students will automatically be able to enter the raffle if they place a tuckshop order during this time (ie. 22 and 29 November, or 6 December), or they can purchase tickets from the tuckshop for 50cents each.
1st prize is a Hart Smart backpack, 2nd prize is a $5.00 tuckshop voucher, and 3rd prize is an ice-block voucher.

I look forward to your continued support.

Many thanks,
Lisa Virtue
Tuckshop Convenor

SCHOOL BANKING

Congratulations for being involved in the School Banking program this year. If you have collected 10 or more silver Dollarmites tokens you MUST redeem them for a reward before the end of Term 4 as you won’t be able to use these extra tokens next year. The Dollarmites moneyboxes will no longer be available from next year so collect them now.

Select the reward item(s) you want by completing the coupon on your rewards card and take it, along with your 10 tokens per reward, to school with your next School Banking deposit. 8 exciting new rewards are coming in 2014!

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>20th</td>
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<td>WWW Big Breakfast</td>
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Book Fair starts this Thursday!
Block B Room 10 (Block closest to the parent car park)
Thursday 21 November to Wednesday 27 November 2013
Before school Friday to Wednesday 8:15am - 8:45am
During first break Friday to Wednesday
After school Thursday to Tuesday 3:00pm - 3:30pm

COMMUNITY NOTICES

HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in for a stay of one term, one semester or two semesters. Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
Experience the action packed story of the magical flying car, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, with eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts, his two children Jemima and Jeremy and the delightful Truly Scrumptious.

Sensational sets, stunning special effects, Ian Fleming's irresistible story, and an unforgettable score by the Sherman Brothers (*Mary Poppins*) all add up to a blockbuster musical that everyone will love. Boasting a stellar Australian cast of over 70 headed by David Hobson, Rachael Beck, Shane Bourne, George Kapiniaris and Tyler Coppin as the Childcatcher. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* will fly into QPAC for a strictly limited season from 19 November until 22 December 2013. To book tickets visit [www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au) or call 136 246.

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**WAVELL STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

*Orientation Day for students in Year 8 2014*

Monday 9 December 2013

Assembly Hall

Telopia Avenue, Wavell Heights

8.30am for 8.45am start

3.00pm finish

(Morning Tea provided for parents at 10.00am)

**Students to bring/wear:**

Primary School Uniform

Notepad & Pens

Morning Tea & Lunch including a drink

**Shop Hours – Monday 9 December**

Stationery 1.00pm – 5.30pm

Clothing 1.00pm – 5.30pm

Used Clothing (Dblock) 1.00pm – 5.30pm

**Applications still welcome.**

**Enrolment Enquiries contact Sandy Lock, Enrolment Officer on 3350 0328**
North Star FC invites all Under 9, 10 & 11 players, for the 2014 season, to attend its Stars Academy identification trials.

SSF DOC Shaun Yule will oversee all trial sessions.

Trials to be held at 24 Jennings Street
Zillmere:
Wednesday November 20 @ 5:30pm
Sunday November 24 @ 4pm.

Sessions will run for one hour.

Register your interest with SSF Co-ordinator
Belinda Chilton ssf@northstarfc.org